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(54) Title: METHODS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF METASTATIC PROSTATE TUMORS

(57) Abstract

The present invention is directed to methods for the identification of a prostate cancer cell that has metastatic potential or a cell that is or is derived from a secondary prostate tumor metastasis by screening for the expression of fit-4, the cellular receptor of vascular endothelial growth factor-C and -D ("VEGF-C", "VEGF-D"). The present invention is also directed to methods for treating, inhibiting or preventing secondary prostate tumor metastases by inhibiting the expression or activity of fit-4, e.g., inhibiting fit-4: VEGF-C/D complex formation (binding), by administration of a therapeutic. Compositions useful in such methods are also provided.